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LIVESTOCK and MEAT SITUATION

LMS-77

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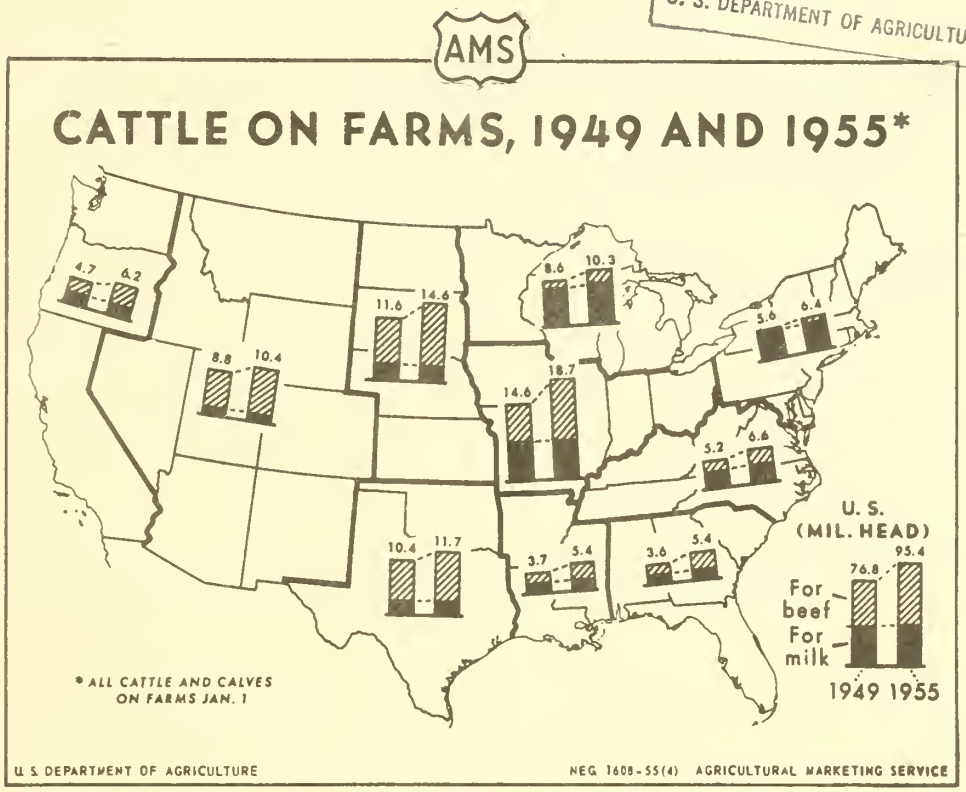
Regional Trends in Cattle Production, 1949-55



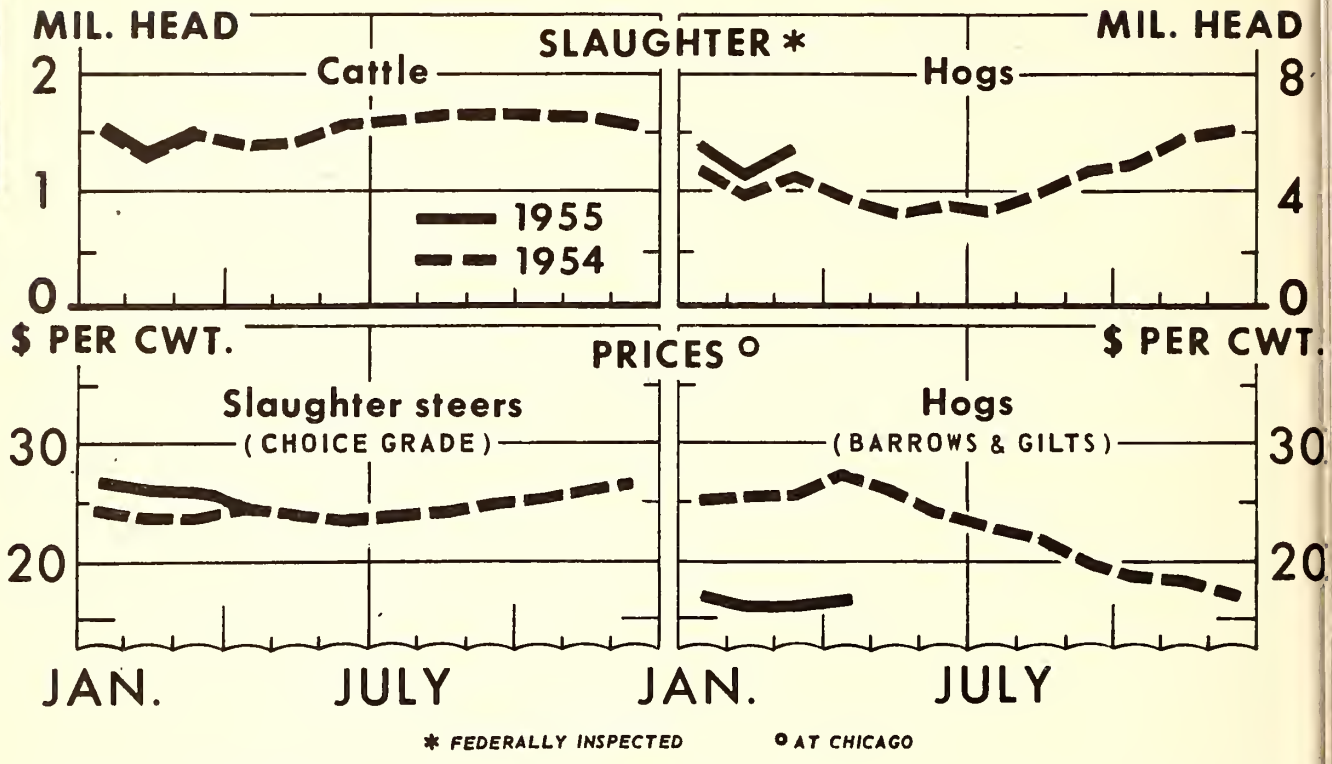
The Central Corn Belt is the nation's leading cattle region. It has many cattle on feed and large numbers of milk cattle, plus sizable beef breeding herds.

In beef cattle alone, the Northern Plains is first. It is followed by the Central Corn Belt, Southern Plains, and Mountain West.

Fastest rate of growth in beef cattle numbers has been in the Southeast. But the 3 Southern regions still have only 17 percent of all beef cattle in the country.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

SLAUGHTER AND PRICES OF CATTLE AND HOGS



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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 678-55 (4) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, May 2, 1955

SUMMARY

Total output of meat this year will register its fourth increase in a row and attain a new high. Pork output will be up most. About 18 percent more hogs were slaughtered commercially in January-April than last year, providing the major part of a 7 percent gain in outturn of all meat during the period. Slaughter of hogs for the rest of 1955 will continue greater than last year but the percentage increase will be less than recently. Cattle slaughter for the same period will average as large or larger than last year. For all of 1955, total meat output is expected to be 3 to 4 percent above 1954.

The production uptrend is slowing, however. Hog producers in 6 States, who had made a 20 percent increase over a year earlier in December-February farrowings, reported on March 1 their plans for only a 3 percent increase in March-May and a 2 percent decrease in June-August. But the total fall crop (June-November) for the United States may be a little larger than last year. A prospective small rise is indicated by the larger acreages of feed grains to be planted this year and by the considerable seasonal rise in hog prices expected this spring and early summer. Prices of hogs will likely be much closer to last year's prices this summer than they were in the winter and early spring.

Cattle production trends are virtually at a standstill, though the 10 percent more cows slaughtered in January-March this year than last suggests the possibility that a moderate downtrend in the cattle inventory may be commencing. But cattle feeding is at all-time record volume, having increased in response to favorable price margins realized in 1954. Under influence of large marketings, prices of fed cattle will average lower the rest of the spring than in February to April. A seasonal strengthening is likely later in the summer. Prices of cattle off grass will likely decline seasonally during the summer.

The usual summer decline in prices of lambs is in prospect, but it probably will be less severe than last summer.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Livestock Slaughter, Meat Output Setting New Record

Commercial slaughter of hogs in January to April was approximately 18 percent greater than last year. Cattle slaughter was up 1 percent, calf slaughter 1 percent, and sheep and lamb slaughter 3 percent. Total meat output was 7 percent larger. (These figures include estimates for April based on weekly inspected slaughter.)

In the rest of 1955, hog slaughter will continue above last year but the increase will be less than in past months. Cattle and calf slaughter will average at least equal to last year. Sheep and lamb slaughter will not differ much, but is more likely to be a little below than above. For all of 1955, output of meat from the prospective slaughter is forecast at $26\frac{1}{4}$ billion pounds. This would be 3 to 4 percent more than last year and the fourth successive increase. Except for the very small dip in 1951, it would be the seventh increase in a row.

The meat supply in prospect for 1955 equals a consumption per person of about 158 pounds. This is 4 pounds more than was consumed last year. Consumption of beef is forecast at 78 pounds, almost the same as last year's 79 pounds. Prospective veal consumption at 10.0 pounds is unchanged, while lamb consumption may again be a fraction over 4 pounds. Pork consumption, which was a 16-year low of 60 pounds last year, may be 66 pounds this year.

Cattle Slaughter to Stay Large

Numbers of cattle in the United States are at a record high but no longer changing much. From this large herd close to 40 million cattle and calves now move into slaughter annually. Last year's total was 39.3 million. This year, the number slaughtered is expected to be a bit greater.

More Fed Cattle This Spring and Summer

Supported by a large number of fed cattle, total cattle slaughter the remainder of the spring will probably be at least as great as last spring. About 8 percent more cattle were on feed in the Corn Belt April 1 this year than last. In 14 States, including 3 Western States, the increase was 12 percent. The volume of feeding in each area is a new record for April.

Among Corn Belt States that reported, only Missouri showed a reduction from last April. Kansas had an increase of 20 percent. Idaho and Colorado also were up 20 percent. In California the gain was a big 54 percent. Cattle feeding has been at exceptionally high volume in California the past winter. Feeding of cattle in California has increased a great deal in recent years, as feeders there have learned to use a variety of feeds to finish cattle for the growing West Coast market. The volume of feeding leveled out last year, before expanding again last fall. (Trends in cattle feeding in California were described in this Situation for August 25, 1954).

Feeders throughout the country expected to market their cattle at a slightly faster rate than last year. Almost half were due to be sold by July 1.

More Heifers, Cows Slaughtered

Slaughter of steers in January to March was down 7 percent from a year before. Slaughter of heifers was up 8 percent, reflecting in part the much greater number of heifers on feed.

About 10 percent more cows were slaughtered under Federal inspection in January-March this year than last. Cow slaughter seems likely to drop below last year at times this summer but is expected to regain or exceed last year's rate this fall.

The substantial slaughter of cows to date is a "straw in the wind" suggesting that a slow reduction in cattle numbers may be underway. Since cow numbers on farms were almost unchanged during the past year, any increase in slaughter would point to a probable decrease in the cow inventory. Trend in the breeding herd largely determines changes in total cattle numbers.

Much of West Still Dry

Range and pasture conditions the rest of the year will have much bearing on the direction the cattle cycle will take. On April 1, range and pasture feed was poor in an area from Wyoming to West Texas. For the West as a whole, the rated range feed condition of 67 percent of normal was the lowest for the date since 1935.

Unless the drought is relieved, marketings of cattle and calves from that area will again be large during the summer and early fall. A drought catastrophe this year would certainly force considerable reduction in cattle numbers.

In the Flint Hills of Kansas and the Osage pastures of Oklahoma grass prospects are fair to good. However, there are shortages of stockwater in some portions. Also, subsoil moisture is short.

Cattle Prices to Average About Same as Last Year

The expansion of cattle feeding to record volume is a direct result of favorable price margins and acceptable profits from feeding realized in 1954. In cattle feeding, as in hog production, a period of high returns is usually followed by an expanded activity which then causes price relationships and profits to turn in the opposite direction.

By late April, prices of fed steers had declined more than $3.00 per 100 pounds from their mid-January high. In view of the greater number to be marketed, prices of fed cattle are expected to average lower the rest of the spring than in February to April. Also, the seasonal recovery that usually begins in late spring may be delayed. For the entire selling season, however, fed cattle prices are likely to average as high as last year.

At this level of selling prices, profits in cattle feeding will be less than last year, when they were above average. Also, there will be considerable variation in profits depending on time of sale.

Prices of all slaughter steers and of slaughter cows averaged about the same this April as last. Prices of feeder cattle, however, were $0.50 to $2.00 per 100 pounds higher. Feeder prices will, in all probability, decline seasonally this summer and fall but they will likely remain above last year for several months. From mid-May to mid-July last year, Good feeder steers at Kansas City declined a sharp $4.00 per 100 pounds. They then recovered $3.00 in the next 4 months, in an unusual movement for that season. This year prices may trace a more nearly normal course, trending downward more regularly. By fall, they could be down to--or a little below--last fall's prices. The exact level of prices this fall will depend chiefly on the prices received for fed cattle this spring and the summer's weather conditions.

Lamb Prices Below Last Year; Feeding Returns Nearly as Large

Prices of slaughter lambs in late April were $3.00 per 100 pounds lower than at the same time in 1954. Prices were equal to last year when marketings of fed lambs began in early winter, then increased less as the season progressed. But last year prices declined $5.00 per 100 pounds from May to September. A smaller seasonal reduction is probable this year.

Costs and returns in feeding lambs this past winter were similar to those of 1953-54 (table 1). Feeder lambs cost slightly more but feed was a little cheaper. The average selling price was a little lower because of a decline at the season's end. Profits were moderately smaller than in 1953-54, and just about at the average level.

The data in table 1 apply to a representative winter feeding program. Only the principal cost and receipt items are shown. Returns to individual feeders varied from the average calculated here.

Returns were probably about the same for lambs bought early as for those bought later. However, profits have been less on lambs bought during the winter for very late (April or May) sale.

Hog Slaughter Being Reduced Seasonally

The hog slaughter rate almost invariably decreases during the spring. It will be reduced even more than usual this year and by July will be down to close to last year's rate. Reason for this pattern is the smaller increase in the late-fall pig crop last year than the early-fall crop.

Hog slaughter next fall and winter, when the 1955 spring pig crop will be marketed, will be moderately larger than a year before. Last December farmers' intentions were for a 5 percent increase in the spring crop. According to reports from 6 leading States received in March, the increase may be slightly greater. Farrowings, actual and intended, in those States were up 7 percent. However, through March 1 litters averaged somewhat smaller. Thus the increase in the spring crop may amount to about 6 percent.

Farrowings were early this year. In the 6 States reporting in March, December-February farrowings were 20 percent above a year before but only a 3 percent increase was planned for March-May, the main farrowing months. A trend toward earlier farrowings has been in progress for several years. However, the shift from a large increase in early farrowings to a small increase in later farrowings was due mainly to the sharp decline in prices as the season progressed.

The time pigs are farrowed affects the time of marketing, but it is only one of several influential factors. The connection between time of farrowing and of marketing is not precise. In 1954, for example, farrowings were early but slaughter late. Slaughter remained rather small in October and November, then was large in January and February.

The factors that influence variations in time of marketing hogs are as follows:

Table 1.- Average prices and values of important items affecting returns from lamb feeding, 1949-50 to 1954-55

Item	1949-1950	1950-1951	1951-1952	1952-1953	1953-1954	1954-1955
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Prices						
Choice and Prime slaughter lambs, Chicago, December - March, per 100 pounds	24.33	36.35	28.82	22.49	22.10	21.64
Good and Choice feeder lambs, Omaha, September-December	23.16	29.35	31.61	21.01	17.05	17.68
Corn, North Central States, October-March, per bushel	1.093	1.473	1.620	1.417	1.363	1.357
Alfalfa hay, received by farmers, North Central States: October-March, per ton	21.68	21.98	21.48	24.58	22.83	21.43
	Total value					
Sales value, per head Choice and Prime lamb, 85 pounds	20.68	30.90	24.50	19.12	18.78	18.39
Cost, per head Feeder lamb, 60 pounds	13.90	17.61	18.97	12.61	10.23	10.61
Corn, 2½ bushels	2.73	3.68	4.05	3.54	3.41	3.39
Alfalfa hay, 150 pounds	1.63	1.65	1.61	1.84	1.71	1.61
Total for items shown 1/	18.26	22.94	24.63	17.99	15.35	15.61
Margin, value over costs shown 1/	2.42	7.96	- .13	1.13	3.43	2.78

1/ Does not include purchasing or marketing expenses, labor cost, death losses, overhead costs or costs of other feed ingredients, or credits for manure. The prices shown are averages for the lamb feeding season for the North Central region, and do not necessarily coincide with the experience of individual feeders.

1. Time of farrowing. When farrowings are early, more of the pig crop is marketed in the first half of the marketing season. Late farrowings ordinarily mean late marketings.

2. Confidence in prices. When producers believe prices will not weaken severely they hold hogs longer. Thus, during a period of rising prices marketings tend to be delayed, while a prolonged price decline speeds marketings.

3. Price relationships. High hog prices in relation to the price of corn make it profitable to feed to heavier weight. The extra feeding takes more time and delays marketing. A low hog-corn price ratio makes added feeding less profitable, hastening marketing.

4. The supply of old corn in farmers' hands. When a plentiful supply of old-crop corn is on hand, producers have no handicap to fast feeding and early sale of hogs. When the supply is short, they must postpone final feeding and marketing until after harvest of new corn.

5. Compliance with corn loan programs. In several past years price supports on corn were available to all producers. As the support price was not varied during a feeding year, it had its greatest supporting influence in the fall when supplies of corn are largest and prices normally lowest. Under that program, there was less reason to hold hogs for heavy feeding on new corn since its price would not be greatly cheaper. (Much of the price reduction that remained merely reflected higher moisture content of new corn.)

   When support is available only to producers who comply with allotments, corn prices are less effectively supported. There is then more reason to keep hogs for fattening on new crop corn. The substantial non-compliance contributed to the later feeding and marketing last fall.

Of the above 5 factors the first 3 favor early marketing this year. Not only was farrowing early, but neither price levels nor price relationships are very favorable. The downtrend in hog prices the past year and the low prices received for hogs held past January 1 last winter will cause producers to be apprehensive about late-season prices this year. The hog-corn price ratio will average much lower this year than last. Factors 4 and 5, on the other hand, do not point toward early marketing. The supply of "free" old-crop corn in farmers' hands this summer will again be fairly tight, though large harvests of small grains will prevent any marked shortage of feed. Compliance with corn loan programs is again required as a prerequisite for corn price support; this might, with high yields, result in appreciably lower prices for corn after harvest.

Based on these factors, hog slaughter is expected to be somewhat earlier than last year. The slaughter rate will probably be considerably above last year during the first half of the fall-winter marketing season, with the greatest increase in October and November. Slaughter in December to February might be little if any larger than last year.

Even though over several decades the seasonal pattern of hog slaughter has gradually moved earlier, the peak slaughter still comes near the end of the year.

Corresponding to this outlook for slaughter, prices of hogs may begin their seasonal decline early--perhaps around late July or early August. Prices this fall will be lower than last fall, at least through November.

Fall Pig Crop Expected to be a Little Larger

In viewing the livestock enterprise as a whole we find that lower support prices for feed grains, planned increases in feed crop acreages, and continued high incomes of consumers are pushing toward further livestock expansion. The cattle numbers cycle is at a hesitation stage. But a further increase in hog production may develop.

The minimum support price for 1955 crop corn is $1.58 per bushel. It will be slightly more if the parity index should rise. Last year the support was $1.62. Reductions in support prices for other feed grains are greater--from $0.75 last year to $0.61 this year for oats, from $1.15 to $0.94 for barley, and from $2.28 to $1.78 for grain sorghums.

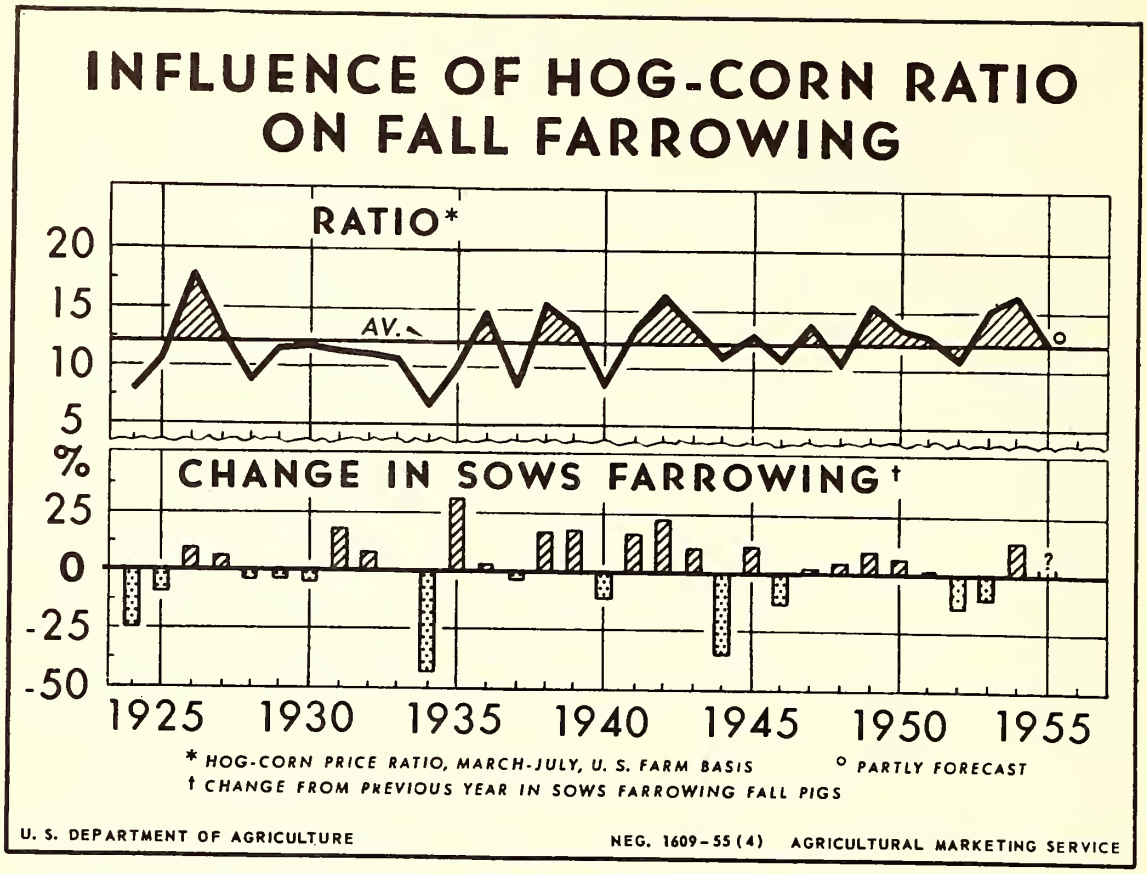
Despite these reductions in support prices, farmers intended on March 1 to plant the same acreage as last year to corn, 1 percent more to oats, 9 percent more to barley, and 7 percent more to sorghums. Lower acreage allotments for wheat and cotton have freed land for other uses, accounting for much of the increases in feed grains.

Though the support price for corn may be slightly lower, acreage allotments will be somewhat larger, making compliance easier. In any year when the corn crop turns out to be fairly small, the degree of compliance has little effect on prices of corn or on the number of hogs produced. But when yields are high and the crop large, a high compliance will tend to restrict hog production while low compliance will usually result in an increase. When most of the corn is not eligible for support it is fed to livestock. As neither the degree of compliance nor the size of yields in 1955 can be anticipated yet, the effect on future hog production cannot be known. But high yields without high compliance would almost certainly give a boost to hog production.

Table 2.- Array of hog-corn price ratios during March-July, and corresponding changes in number of sows farrowing fall pigs, 1924-55

Year	Hog-corn ratio, March-July 1/		Number of sows farrowing in the fall	Increase or decrease from previous year in sows farrowing	
	United States	North Central States		Number	Percentage
			1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent
1926	18.0	20.3	4,330	391	9.9
1942	16.4	17.6	6,840	1,305	23.6
1954	16.1	16.4	5,424	673	14.2
1938	15.5	17.3	4,517	672	17.5
1949	15.4	15.9	5,568	498	9.8
1953	15.1	15.7	4,751	- 506	- 9.6
1936	14.9	16.5	3,957	100	2.6
1947	13.8	14.2	4,866	162	3.4
1939	13.6	15.5	5,252	835	18.5
1943	13.6	14.6	7,565	725	10.6
1950	13.5	13.9	5,923	355	6.4
1941	13.3	14.1	5,535	772	16.2
1945	12.9	14.0	5,429	547	11.2
1951	12.8	13.0	6,032	109	1.8
1927	12.8	13.5	4,609	279	6.4
1955	2/ 12-12.5	---	---	---	---
1930	11.8	13.2	4,073	- 191	- 4.5
1929	11.6	12.7	4,264	- 165	- 3.7
1931	11.4	13.0	4,797	724	17.8
1932	11.2	12.6	5,179	382	8.0
1944	11.1	12.3	4,882	- 2,683	-35.5
1952	10.8	11.1	5,257	- 775	-12.8
1933	10.8	12.9	5,207	28	.5
1925	10.8	11.8	3,939	- 405	- 9.3
1946	10.8	11.4	4,704	- 725	-13.4
1948	10.4	10.4	5,070	204	4.2
1935	10.1	10.8	3,857	921	31.4
1928	8.8	9.4	4,429	- 180	- 3.9
1940	8.5	9.2	4,763	- 589	-11.0
1937	8.5	8.6	3,845	- 112	- 2.8
1924	8.0	8.9	4,344	- 1,448	-25.0
1934	6.9	8.0	2,936	- 2,271	-43.6

1/ March-July is regarded as the breeding season for the fall pig crop.
2/ Estimated. April 1955 was 12.2 for the United States.



The hog-corn price ratio was below average this winter and therefore was unfavorable for hog production. For March to July, the ratio may be 12 or a little higher, which is approximately average. A ratio at this level has brought variable results in past years. As shown by the data in table 2, a ratio of 12.8 or above has with one exception been followed by an increase in farrowings. But a ratio between 11 and 12 has sometimes brought a decrease, sometimes an increase.

The substantial seasonal rise in hog prices expected this spring will give some renewed encouragement to fall farrowing plans. In all, a rather small increase, which may be around 2 to 4 percent, seems in prospect.

Profits in Hogs to be Small

Hog production and the pork supply are now at intermediate levels. The 1955 pig crop in prospect may be the fifth largest crop on record. At this level of production the supply of pork for consumption per person in the next year would remain around halfway between 60 and 70 pounds. Average consumption in the 1940's was 70 pounds. However, demand for pork has declined relative to that for beef, and a 70-pound supply would now result in seriously depressed prices.

At the production level in prospect, hog prices would remain at around an average relation to the price of corn. Production would of course be most profitable to those producers who achieve highest efficiency in production, who successfully market at the higher price seasons, or who have an abundant supply of relatively inexpensive feed.

Demand for Meat Not Responding Fully to Higher Incomes; Marketing Margin for Pork Wider

After a mild let-down in most of 1954, general business and industrial activity improved in the fall of 1954 and so far in 1955. In the January-March quarter, civilian employment was up slightly from a year before and average disposable incomes per person were 3 percent higher.

Preliminary indications are that demand for meat has not fully reflected the higher incomes. Over the long run, demand for meat bears a close relation to the level of incomes of consumers. But over short periods this relationship is not so close. In 1954, for example, demand for meat increased relative to incomes, and the percentage of incomes spent for meat showed a small rise. So far this year, the retail value of meat consumed has not risen proportionately with incomes.

It remains to be seen whether demand will return to its previous relationship later in the year. However, the lower relationship to date partially explains the low prices for hogs during the winter. Also, it has had a small effect on cattle prices.

Preliminary data also indicate that the marketing margin for pork has widened considerably since the spring of 1954, for the retail price of pork declined less over this period than did the price of hogs. The margin in January-March 1955 was record high for the quarter. The experience for hog prices the past year was similar to that in cattle prices in the winter of 1952-53. In both cases a slow rate of adjustment in retail prices prevented the quick expansion in retail sales that was necessary to absorb quickly the extra supply. As a result a downward pressure in live animal prices developed that was out of proportion to the size of the increase in supply.

While marketing margins for pork and beef usually widen when supply increases, they narrow when it decreases. Margins on pork were squeezed in the winter and spring of 1954, contributing to increased prices of hogs then.

World Cattle and Hog Numbers Record High

World cattle and hog numbers increased during 1954, setting new highs for each species, according to reports issued by the Foreign Agricultural Service. The gain in cattle was relatively small and was associated with improved feed and forage conditions in some countries and by a heavier rate of stocking pastures. The increase in hogs was the result of favorable feed supplies in the main hog producing areas and of hog prices high enough to give incentive for expanded output.

Cattle numbers are estimated at 877 million head, 1 percent greater than a year earlier and nearly one-fifth above prewar numbers. While the increase was nearly worldwide, a slightly larger percentage gain was made in South America than by other major producers.

World hog numbers are currently estimated at 349 million head, 5 percent more than a year earlier. Gains were registered in nearly every important hog producing country, with North America, South America and Europe showing increases of 11, 8 and 7 percent respectively. Hog production is now greater than prewar in practically all countries.

The gain in animal numbers will be reflected this year in a larger beef and pork output. Supplies of beef for export in Australia and New Zealand promise to be larger again this year but supplies from South America will continue relatively small. (Little beef enters the United States from Australia or New Zealand.) Larger supplies of pork in the principal exporting countries competing for a likely reduced market in importing countries may result in moderately lower export pork prices.

Changes in Federal Grades of Slaughter Hogs and Pork Carcasses Under Consideration

The Department of Agriculture announced April 20 that it has under consideration proposed revisions of the official U. S. standards for live slaughter barrows and gilts and their carcasses. One revision proposes changing the three Choice designations of Choice No. 1, Choice No. 2 and Choice No. 3 to U. S. No. 1, U. S. No. 2 and U. S. No. 3 respectively. The Medium and Cull grade names would remain unchanged. Another proposal is that the degree of fatness be reduced for each grade. The minimum back fat thickness would be lowered and minor changes would be made in the descriptive specifications to reflect the reduced back fat thickness. A period of 30 days has been allowed to provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views concerning the proposed revisions.

NEW OR REVISED SERIES

Canned Meat Output Unchanged

Production of 1,441 million pounds of canned meat under Federal inspection last year was practically unchanged from the previous year. Imports of canned pork were somewhat larger but of canned beef smaller. Total civilian consumption also was about the same as in 1954. Consumption per person, however, was down slightly.

Data in table 3 continue to report the tonnage of canned pork inspected for entry by the Meat Inspection Branch of the Department of Agriculture. These are the only data for which a long series is available. The Census Bureau now reports imports of canned hams and shoulders. Last year 106 million pounds of these products were imported.

Wool, Mohair Receipts

Farmers' cash receipts from wool in 1954 were 1 percent less than in 1953, because of a 1 cent per pound lower average price. The value and price of mohair decreased more (tables 4 and 5).

Production, Price and Income Data

Tables 6 to 11 present data on production, prices and income from meat animals. These are standard tables previously published in this Situation. They include data on production and disposition, estimates of income, revised prices received by farmers in 1954, and parity price comparisons.

REGIONAL TRENDS IN CATTLE PRODUCTION, 1949-55

Production of cattle in the United States has leveled off following its steepest expansion on record. The overall increase in January inventories from 1949 to 1955 was 24 percent in all cattle and calves and 22 percent in cows. But in the last year the gain in the total was less than 1 percent and in cows was insignificant.

Table 12 and the cover chart present data on the 1949 and 1955 numbers of all cattle. Table 13 and the chart on page 23 relate only to cow numbers.

Table 3.- Canned meat: Supply and distribution, 1937-54

Year	Federally inspected production 1/	Imports: Canned beef 2/	Imports: Canned pork 3/	Beginning stocks 4/	Commercial exports and shipments 5/	Ending stocks 4/	USDA purchases 6/	Military purchases 7/	Apparent civilian disappearance 8/: Total	Apparent civilian disappearance 8/: Per capita
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Pounds
1937	308.1	88.1	43.1	---	21.9	---	---	---	417.4	3.2
1938	303.5	78.6	40.6	---	22.8	---	---	---	399.9	3.0
1939	406.8	85.9	36.6	---	23.9	---	---	---	505.4	3.8
1940	530.2	61.3	1.2	---	20.2	---	---	---	572.5	4.3
1941	883.9	104.3	.7	---	26.7	---	188.4	75.5	698.3	5.2
1942	1,926.6	91.6	.5	---	19.8	---	875.6	920.5	202.8	1.5
1943	2,051.2	105.5	2.3	---	9.9	---	1,024.8	680.5	443.8	3.4
1944	1,930.7	87.7	.2	---	13.2	---	448.6	1,121.0	435.8	3.3
1945	1,926.1	54.8	9/	17.7	13.5	18.1	359.6	970.9	636.5	4.9
1946	1,342.8	3.3	.2	18.1	55.3	22.6	157.1	19.2	1,110.2	7.9
1947	1,099.4	28.7	9/	22.6	64.3	27.3	---	31.1	1,028.0	7.1
1948	1,096.0	129.1	.2	27.3	35.4	28.0	---	52.8	1,136.4	7.7
1949	1,039.7	72.3	1.6	28.0	25.7	27.2	---	23.0	1,065.7	7.1
1950	1,231.3	124.6	18.6	27.2	20.0	27.3	---	50.3	1,304.1	8.6
1951	1,441.2	153.9	30.8	27.3	20.6	34.6	---	246.2	1,351.8	8.8
1952	1,351.2	120.0	53.8	34.6	18.7	37.1	---	57.8	1,446.0	9.3
1953	1,437.4	100.1	97.4	37.1	10/29.0	34.0	---	50.5	11/1,558.5	11/9.8
1954	1,441.0	85.2	113.2	34.0	10/32.5	54.0	---	33.6	1,553.3	9.6

1/ Beef, pork, sausage, all other, excluding soup. Data from Meat Inspection Branch, ARS. 2/ Data from Department of Commerce. 3/ Federally inspected for entry. Data from Meat Inspection Branch, ARS. 4/ Refrigerated stocks only. 5/ Includes shipments to Territories. Excludes shipments under lend-lease and UNRRA (1941-46) and the Civilian Supply Programs of the U. S. Department of the Army in foreign countries (1948-51). Data from Department of Commerce. 6/ Canned meats and meat food products officially graded for CCC. Does not include USDA purchases in 1953 and 1954. 7/ From Statistical Yearbook of the Quartermaster Corps and other military records. 8/ Calculated from federally inspected supplies and distribution as shown. Federally inspected production is the largest part of total U. S. production of canned meats. 9/ Less than 50,000 pounds. 10/ Includes small quantities of canned beef and gravy procured by USDA and shipped abroad by CARE. 11/ Includes canned beef bought by the Department of Agriculture for school lunches and eligible institutions.

Table 4.- Production, prices and income from wool, United States, 1946-54

Year	Shorn wool					Pulled wool production
	Number sheep shorn 1/	Weight per fleece	Production	Price per pound 2/	Cash receipts	
	Thousands	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Cents	1,000 dollars	1,000 pounds
1946	34,647	8.11	280,908	42.3	118,805	61,300
1947	30,953	8.12	251,425	42.0	105,654	56,600
1948	28,649	8.09	231,770	49.2	114,055	46,600
1949	26,382	8.07	212,899	49.4	105,223	35,600
1950	26,387	8.16	215,422	62.1	133,729	32,400
1951	27,357	8.24	225,545	97.0	218,832	25,900
1952	28,172	8.25	232,373	54.1	125,809	33,600
1953	27,756	8.30	230,395	4/54.9	126,467	42,200
1954 3/	27,417	8.48	232,629	4/53.9	125,331	43,500

1/ Includes sheep shorn at commercial feeding yards.
2/ Average price for the marketing season April through March received by farmers.
3/ Preliminary.
4/ Includes an allowance for loan wool.

Table 5.- Mohair: Production and value for 7 leading States, 1946-54 1/

Year	Number goats clipped 2/	Average clip per goat	Production of mohair	Price per pound	Value
	Thousands	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Cents	1,000 dollars
1946	3,939	4.9	19,282	61.1	11,783
1947	3,672	5.0	18,225	53.6	9,772
1948	3,164	5.1	15,972	45.4	7,251
1949	2,558	5.1	12,959	46.3	6,001
1950	2,530	5.2	13,245	76.0	10,062
1951	2,475	5.2	12,888	118.0	15,183
1952	2,268	5.3	12,116	96.2	11,660
1953	2,307	5.4	12,572	88.6	11,138
1954 3/	2,492	5.5	13,673	72.3	9,888

1/ States are Missouri, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Oregon and California.
2/ In States where goats are clipped twice a year the number clipped is the sum of goats and kids clipped in the spring and kids clipped in the fall.
3/ Preliminary.

Table 6.- Number of cattle and calves on farms, calf crop and disposition, and live weight of farm production, United States, 1936 to date 1/

Year	On hand, January 1		Calves born		Inship-ments 2/	Marketings 3/		Farm slaughter		Deaths		Live weight of farm production
	All cattle	All cows 2 years and over	Percentage of cows 2 years and over	Number		Cattle	Calves	Cattle	Calves	Cattle	Calves	
	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Million pounds
1936	67,847	36,244	78	28,201	4,990	19,991	10,029	613	888	1,349	2,070	14,438
1937	66,098	35,331	79	28,033	5,111	18,854	10,298	570	785	1,405	2,081	13,746
1938	65,249	34,598	80	27,787	5,635	18,552	9,560	569	725	1,308	1,928	14,047
1939	66,029	34,587	83	28,879	6,416	18,380	10,076	571	755	1,298	1,935	15,177
1940	68,309	35,616	84	29,886	7,026	18,413	10,365	571	728	1,397	1,992	15,702
1941	71,755	36,819	87	31,868	7,185	18,948	11,001	571	684	1,461	2,118	17,029
1942	76,025	38,891	88	34,388	8,514	20,740	11,787	646	641	1,560	2,349	18,568
1943	81,204	41,118	85	34,797	7,442	21,310	11,177	708	620	1,734	2,560	19,159
1944	85,334	43,225	86	37,040	7,233	23,627	14,323	854	724	1,734	2,772	19,708
1945	85,573	44,226	79	35,155	8,257	27,541	13,222	919	753	1,637	2,678	19,517
1946	82,235	42,929	81	34,643	8,774	26,267	13,026	943	766	1,549	2,547	18,999
1947	80,554	42,330	82	34,703	8,302	26,981	13,893	871	713	1,464	2,466	19,130
1948	77,171	40,625	82	33,125	7,595	23,417	12,607	791	611	1,388	2,247	18,402
1949	76,830	39,781	85	33,748	8,079	22,905	12,627	752	570	1,507	2,333	19,274
1950	77,963	40,596	86	34,846	8,869	22,684	11,975	723	531	1,441	2,299	20,488
1951	82,025	42,118	85	35,706	9,174	22,638	11,332	724	495	1,534	2,338	21,889
1952	87,844	43,959	86	37,992	9,138	23,893	12,064	812	514	1,607	2,447	23,525
1953	93,637	46,584	88	40,952	8,399	28,295	14,328	924	585	1,569	2,500	25,597
1954	94,787	48,508	87	42,210	10,065	30,563	15,464	941	574	1,584	2,503	26,156
1955	95,433	48,574										

1/ Balance sheet estimates. Total marketings, farm slaughter, deaths, and on hand end of year equals total of calf crop, inshipments and on hand beginning of year. 2/ Sum of the interstate shipments and imports of feeding and breeding animals. 3/ Excludes interfarm sales within States.
Data for 1924-35 in the Livestock and Meat Situation, February 1949, page 20.

Table 7.- Number of sheep and lambs on farms, lamb crop and disposition, and live weight of farm production, United States 1936 to date 1/

Year	On hand January 1	Lambs saved		Inshipments 2/		Marketings 3/		Farm slaughter		Deaths		Live weight of farm production
		Number	Percentage of ewes 1 year and over	Sheep	Lambs	Sheep	Lambs	Sheep	Lambs	Sheep	Lambs	
	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Million pounds
1936	51,136	29,762	84	666	6,037	4,627	24,206	305	332	4,373	2,910	1,852
1937	50,848	29,170	84	742	6,564	4,579	24,245	295	303	4,172	2,667	1,932
1938	51,063	30,420	88	862	6,606	4,565	25,767	295	315	3,891	2,770	2,038
1939	51,348	29,913	86	1,107	6,839	4,415	25,459	292	305	3,951	2,678	2,029
1940	52,107	31,082	87	1,060	7,186	4,384	25,846	272	299	3,910	2,804	2,101
1941	53,920	32,610	90	935	7,440	4,231	26,510	292	290	4,191	3,178	2,251
1942	56,213	32,312	86	828	8,020	6,064	28,598	291	287	4,029	2,954	2,313
1943	55,150	30,924	83	639	7,624	7,818	27,505	289	287	4,350	3,306	2,108
1944	50,782	28,642	84	576	6,844	7,362	25,349	279	283	4,095	2,956	1,938
1945	46,520	27,042	86	601	6,994	7,333	24,983	274	297	3,418	2,490	1,912
1946	42,362	24,489	89	737	6,718	6,758	24,088	265	289	3,125	2,283	1,762
1947	37,498	21,858	88	652	5,910	5,224	20,937	229	270	2,845	2,076	1,567
1948	34,337	19,594	85	627	5,486	4,828	18,947	213	261	2,916	1,936	1,383
1949	30,943	18,298	87	721	5,242	3,473	16,784	177	227	2,898	1,819	1,278
1950	29,826	17,905	89	728	5,916	2,627	16,446	177	215	2,558	1,717	1,331
1951	30,635	17,989	88	735	5,816	3,133	15,381	146	195	2,504	1,728	1,351
1952	32,088	18,479	88	669	5,512	3,201	17,053	130	206	2,554	1,743	1,407
1953	31,861	19,601	90	576	4,787	3,011	17,922	126	218	2,545	1,785	1,434
1954	31,218	20,272	94	620	5,095	3,015	18,750	120	208	2,403	1,778	1,510
1955	30,931											

1/ Balance sheet estimates. Total of marketings, farm slaughter, deaths, and on hand end of year equals total of lamb crop, inshipments, and on hand beginning of year. 2/ Sum of the interstate shipments and imports of feeding and breeding animals. 3/ Excludes interfarm sales within States.
Data for 1924-35 in the Livestock and Meat Situation, February 1949, page 22.

Table 8.- Number of hogs on farms, pig crops and disposition, and live weight of farm production, United States, 1936 to date 1/

Year	On hand January 1	Pigs saved			Inshipments 2/	Marketings 3/	Farm slaughter	Deaths	Live weight of farm production
		Spring	Fall	Total					
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Million pounds
1936	42,975	41,422	24,303	65,725	639	44,809	14,295	7,152	12,976
1937	43,083	38,525	23,994	62,519	367	40,665	13,333	7,446	12,506
1938	44,525	43,289	28,566	71,855	516	46,089	13,325	7,470	14,372
1939	50,012	53,238	33,714	86,952	637	52,906	13,890	9,550	17,079
1940	61,165	49,584	30,282	79,866	607	64,262	14,155	8,868	17,043
1941	54,353	49,368	35,584	84,952	741	57,695	12,789	8,955	17,489
1942	60,607	61,093	43,810	104,903	600	67,423	12,533	12,273	21,105
1943	73,881	74,223	47,584	121,807	771	83,187	14,016	15,515	25,375
1944	83,741	55,754	30,905	86,659	658	86,289	13,551	11,845	20,584
1945	59,373	52,216	34,611	86,827	464	61,035	13,631	10,692	18,843
1946	61,306	52,191	30,503	82,694	464	64,409	13,721	9,544	18,744
1947	56,810	52,199	31,090	83,289	497	63,499	12,072	10,435	18,159
1948	54,590	50,468	33,358	83,826	459	61,790	11,200	9,628	18,222
1949	56,257	56,969	36,275	93,244	541	69,249	10,236	11,705	19,457
1950	58,852	57,935	39,404	97,339	580	71,969	9,720	12,230	20,001
1951	62,852	62,007	39,804	101,811	755	79,316	9,520	13,000	21,308
1952	63,582	56,270	34,961	91,231	740	81,384	9,022	10,853	19,933
1953	54,294	49,703	31,809	81,512	811	70,513	7,870	9,674	17,461
1954	48,560	55,728	36,766	92,494	1,081	69,360	7,255	10,518	19,085
1955	55,002	4/ 58,500							

1/ Balance sheet estimates. Total of marketings, farm slaughter, deaths, and on hand end of year equals total of pig crop, inshipments, and on hand beginning of year. 2/ Sum of the interstate shipment and imports of feeding and breeding animals. 3/ Excludes interfarm sales within States. 4/ Indicated by farmers' intentions on December 1 at average size of litters as adjusted for trend. However, reports from 6 States indicate the crop may be slightly larger.

Data for 1924-35 in the Livestock and Meat Situation, February 1949, page 21.

Table 9.- Live weight of marketings, cash receipts from marketings, and gross income from meat animals, by classes, 1934 to date

Year	Live weight of mktgs. 1/			Meat animal marketings Index no., 1935-39=100	Cash receipts from marketings 1/ 2/				Gross income 2/ 4/			
	Cattle and calves	Sheep and lambs	Hogs		Cattle and calves	Sheep and lambs	Hogs	All meat animals 3/	Cattle and calves	Sheep and lambs	Hogs	All meat animals 3/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds		Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars
1934	20,350	2,555	11,878	115	813	132	520	1,465	828	134	646	1,608
1935	17,037	2,316	7,330	89	1,062	152	682	1,896	1,084	155	890	2,129
1936	18,318	2,314	9,973	103	1,114	166	991	2,271	1,134	168	1,234	2,536
1937	17,051	2,321	9,146	96	1,239	186	925	2,350	1,261	188	1,161	2,610
1938	17,057	2,460	10,638	102	1,162	157	870	2,189	1,184	159	1,065	2,408
1939	17,385	2,431	12,327	110	1,290	172	810	2,272	1,312	174	981	2,467
1940	17,529	2,448	14,837	120	1,376	180	836	2,391	1,400	182	984	2,566
1941	18,628	2,563	13,765	119	1,705	226	1,302	3,233	1,732	229	1,518	3,479
1942	20,472	2,925	16,300	135	2,263	306	2,198	4,766	2,300	309	2,507	5,116
1943	20,866	3,042	20,748	154	2,562	342	2,929	5,834	2,606	346	3,302	6,254
1944	23,117	2,801	20,825	161	2,604	300	2,800	5,705	2,652	304	3,133	6,089
1945	26,675	2,842	15,494	151	3,318	319	2,263	5,901	3,375	323	2,640	6,337
1946	25,270	2,694	15,984	148	3,761	363	2,917	7,041	3,833	367	3,400	7,600
1947	26,099	2,278	15,722	149	4,967	402	3,926	9,295	5,054	406	4,523	9,983
1948	23,105	2,083	15,280	137	5,285	409	3,660	9,354	5,381	414	4,202	9,998
1949	23,593	1,777	16,747	144	4,849	351	3,125	8,324	4,932	355	3,513	8,800
1950	23,610	1,683	17,230	144	5,677	386	3,184	9,248	5,773	391	3,539	9,703
1951	23,630	1,644	19,042	151	7,001	463	3,902	11,365	7,119	468	4,289	11,875
1952	25,041	1,795	19,286	157	6,251	390	3,512	10,153	6,360	394	3,839	10,592
1953	29,362	1,831	16,460	160	4,894	314	3,598	8,806	4,976	317	3,940	9,233
1954	31,318	1,910	16,531	164	5,113	324	3,650	9,087	5,195	327	3,983	9,505

1/ Excludes interfarm sales. 2/ Does not include Government payments. 3/ Computed from unrounded figures.
4/ Cash receipts plus value of home consumption.

Table 10.- Price per 100 pounds received by farmers for meat animals by classes and hog-corn price ratio, United States, by months, 1954-55

Commodity and year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Weighted average
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Beef cattle													
1954	15.90	16.10	16.40	16.90	17.40	16.60	15.50	15.70	15.80	15.60	15.10	15.20	16.00
1955	16.20	16.50	16.70										
Calves													
1954	17.70	18.00	17.80	18.10	18.40	17.10	15.90	15.60	15.50	15.70	15.30	15.70	16.50
1955	17.20	18.00	17.40										
Hogs													
1954	24.70	25.30	25.00	26.40	24.70	21.50	20.40	21.10	19.70	18.40	18.50	17.00	21.60
1955	17.00	16.40	15.40										
Sheep													
1954	6.78	7.09	7.62	7.49	6.74	6.30	5.62	5.17	5.17	5.41	5.75	5.69	6.10
1955	6.10	6.67	6.91										
Lambs													
1954	18.70	19.40	21.00	21.90	21.80	20.90	19.50	18.40	17.70	17.60	17.70	17.50	19.20
1955	18.50	19.30	19.80										
	Hog-corn ratio												
United States 1/													
1954	17.4	17.7	17.4	18.2	16.8	14.4	13.6	13.8	12.9	12.7	13.5	12.2	2/15.0
1955	12.1	11.7	11.3	12.2									
Chicago													
1954	16.2	16.7	16.7	17.5	16.4	14.9	13.9	13.5	12.3	12.0	12.6	11.3	2/14.5
1955	11.0	10.8	11.0										

1/ United States, based on prices received by farmers for all hogs. 2/ Unweighted average.
Revises and brings to date table 11 of this Situation released March 3, 1955.

Table 11.- Price per 100 pounds received by farmers, parity price, and price received as percentage of parity, meat animals, 1936 to date 1/

Year	Beef cattle			Veal calves			Hogs			Lambs			Sheep		
	Price received by farmers 2/	Parity price 3/	Price received as percentage of parity	Price received by farmers 2/	Parity price 3/	Price received as percentage of parity	Price received by farmers 2/	Parity price 3/	Price received as percentage of parity	Price received by farmers 2/	Parity price 3/	Price received as percentage of parity	Price received by farmers 2/	Parity price 3/	Price received as percentage of parity
	Dol.	Dol.	Pct.	Dol.	Dol.	Pct.	Dol.	Dol.	Pct.	Dol.	Dol.	Pct.	Dol.	Dol.	Pct.
1936	5.90	6.88	86	7.37	8.57	86	9.34	9.23	101	8.14	7.47	109	4.00	5.74	70
1937	7.01	7.15	98	8.11	8.91	91	9.73	9.60	101	8.77	7.76	113	4.43	5.99	74
1938	6.57	6.83	96	7.92	8.50	93	7.80	9.16	85	7.10	7.41	96	3.61	5.71	63
1939	7.13	6.67	107	8.40	8.30	101	6.31	8.94	70	7.77	7.23	108	3.90	5.58	70
1940	7.48	6.72	111	8.85	8.37	105	5.42	9.01	60	8.10	7.29	111	3.97	5.64	70
1941	8.75	7.10	123	10.40	8.84	117	9.14	9.52	96	9.46	7.70	123	4.95	5.94	83
1942	10.60	8.08	132	12.40	10.10	124	13.10	10.80	121	11.50	8.76	132	5.67	6.74	84
1943	12.00	8.67	139	13.60	10.80	126	13.80	11.60	119	13.10	9.41	139	6.67	7.26	92
1944	11.00	9.11	121	12.70	11.30	112	13.10	12.20	108	12.70	9.88	129	6.18	7.59	82
1945	12.20	9.27	132	13.30	11.50	115	14.10	12.40	113	13.20	10.10	131	6.44	7.76	83
1946	14.40	10.40	139	15.10	12.90	117	17.30	13.90	124	15.40	11.20	137	7.30	8.65	84
1947	18.50	12.50	148	20.30	15.50	131	24.20	16.70	145	20.40	13.50	152	8.41	10.40	81
1948	22.40	13.40	167	24.40	16.70	146	23.30	18.00	129	22.70	14.60	156	9.60	11.20	85
1949	19.90	13.10	152	23.00	16.30	140	18.30	17.60	104	22.70	14.20	159	9.45	11.00	86
1950	23.10	17.40	133	26.00	19.50	134	18.20	19.20	95	24.80	19.10	129	11.40	10.70	105
1951	28.80	19.70	146	32.10	22.10	146	20.20	21.30	95	31.20	21.70	144	16.30	11.10	147
1952	24.80	21.00	118	27.20	23.50	115	18.00	21.40	84	24.70	23.10	107	10.60	10.70	99
1953	16.60	21.00	79	17.60	23.40	75	21.60	20.20	107	19.70	22.80	86	6.93	10.40	66
1954	16.00	21.10	76	16.70	23.30	72	21.90	20.70	106	19.30	23.00	84	6.24	10.30	61

1/ Parity prices for meat animals through 1949 are computed from the standard formula in effect prior to January 1, 1950. They are not affected by the revisions of January 1950. Parity prices for 1950-54 are effective parity as currently published. 2/ Unweighted average of prices, by months. 3/ Through 1949, based on index of prices paid, interest and taxes as revised January 1950.

Table 12.- Number of all cattle and calves on farms 1949 and 1955, and percentage change, by States

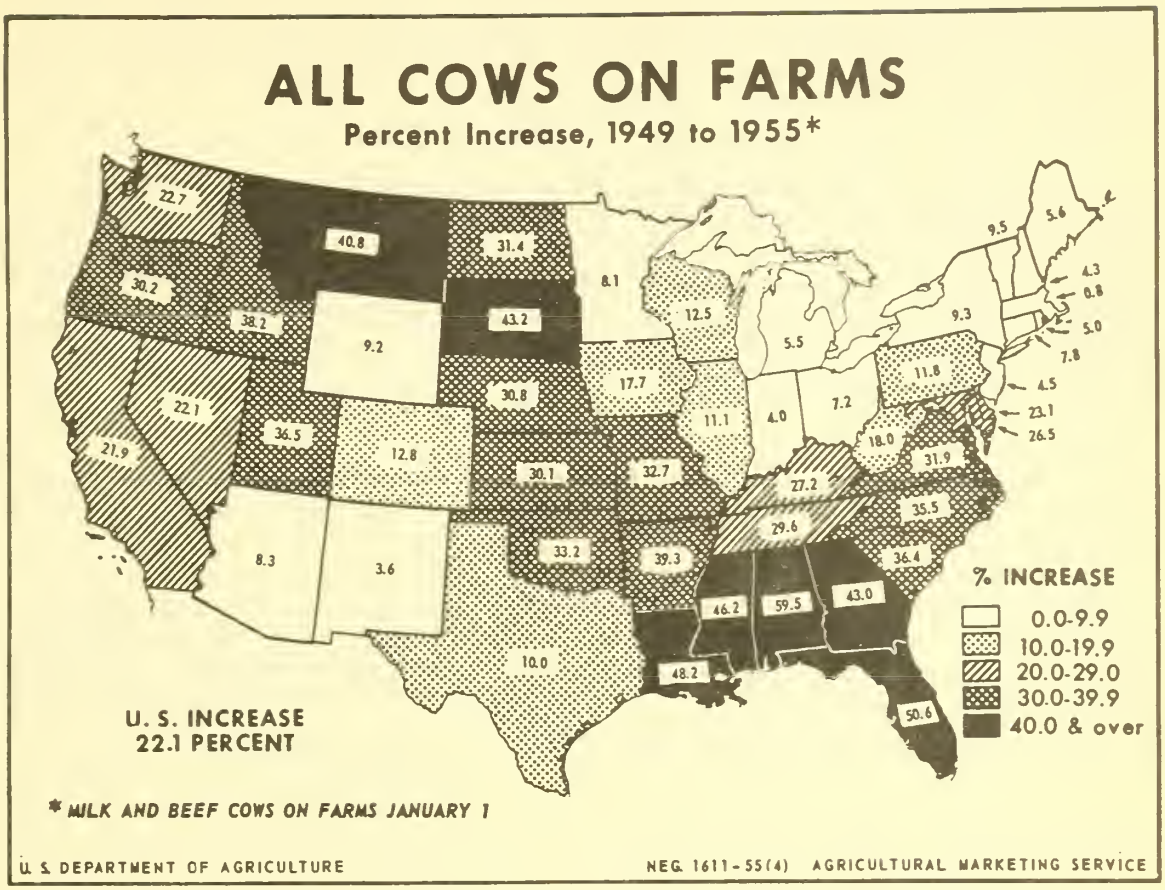
State and region	All cattle and calves on farms January 1						Percentage change 1949-1955		
	1949			1955 1/					
	For milk	For beef	Total	For milk	For beef	Total	For milk	For beef	Total
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent	Percent	Percent
Maine	188	22	210	209	29	238	11.2	31.8	13.3
New Hampshire	106	10	116	110	8	118	3.8	-20.0	1.7
Vermont	409	19	428	457	22	479	11.7	15.8	11.9
Massachusetts	171	9	180	179	11	190	4.7	22.2	5.6
Rhode Island	25	1	26	28	1	29	12.0	0	11.5
Connecticut	160	10	170	177	11	188	10.6	10.0	10.6
New York	1,986	109	2,095	2,217	139	2,356	11.6	27.5	12.5
New Jersey	199	12	211	211	17	228	6.0	41.7	8.1
Pennsylvania	1,457	247	1,704	1,621	333	1,954	11.3	34.8	14.7
North Atlantic	4,701	439	5,140	5,209	571	5,780	10.8	30.1	12.5
Michigan	1,437	309	1,746	1,536	467	2,003	6.9	51.1	14.7
Wisconsin	3,396	294	3,690	3,880	438	4,318	14.3	49.0	17.0
Minnesota	2,243	967	3,210	2,429	1,510	3,939	8.3	56.2	22.7
Lake	7,076	1,570	8,646	7,845	2,415	10,260	10.9	53.8	18.7
Ohio	1,549	558	2,107	1,551	887	2,438	.1	59.0	15.7
Indiana	1,063	680	1,743	908	1,146	2,054	-14.6	68.5	17.8
Illinois	1,596	1,445	3,041	1,460	2,486	3,946	-8.5	72.0	29.8
Iowa	1,767	2,950	4,717	1,676	4,603	6,279	-5.1	56.0	33.1
Missouri	1,357	1,602	2,959	1,451	2,459	3,910	6.9	53.5	32.1
Central Corn Belt	7,332	7,235	14,567	7,046	11,581	18,627	-3.9	60.1	27.9
North Dakota	633	893	1,526	648	1,289	1,937	2.4	44.3	26.9
South Dakota	626	1,930	2,556	580	2,721	3,301	-7.3	41.0	29.1
Nebraska	773	3,083	3,856	698	4,318	5,016	-9.7	40.1	30.1
Kansas	924	2,700	3,624	807	3,534	4,341	-12.7	30.9	19.8
Northern Plains	2,956	8,606	11,562	2,733	11,862	14,595	-7.5	37.8	26.2
Delaware	54	6	60	63	15	78	16.7	150.0	30.0
Maryland	337	87	424	407	133	540	20.8	52.9	27.4
Virginia	655	420	1,075	682	700	1,382	4.1	66.7	28.6
West Virginia	320	229	549	318	293	611	-.6	27.9	11.3
North Carolina	508	142	650	575	358	933	13.2	152.1	43.5
Kentucky	859	674	1,533	926	935	1,861	7.8	38.7	21.4
Tennessee	883	497	1,380	983	788	1,771	11.3	58.6	28.3
Appalachian	3,616	2,055	5,671	3,954	3,222	7,176	9.3	56.8	26.5
South Carolina	242	104	346	263	229	492	8.7	120.2	42.2
Georgia	555	427	982	626	813	1,439	12.8	90.4	46.5
Florida	231	926	1,157	303	1,376	1,679	31.2	48.6	45.1
Alabama	653	484	1,137	755	1,049	1,804	15.6	116.7	58.7
Southeastern	1,681	1,941	3,622	1,947	3,467	5,414	15.8	78.6	49.5
Mississippi	779	637	1,416	952	1,128	2,080	22.2	77.1	46.9
Arkansas	649	408	1,057	663	822	1,485	2.2	101.5	40.5
Louisiana	452	772	224	556	1,231	1,787	23.0	59.5	46.0
Delta	1,880	1,817	3,697	2,171	3,181	5,352	15.5	75.1	44.8
Oklahoma	968	1,513	2,481	880	2,302	3,182	-9.1	52.1	28.3
Texas	1,656	6,301	7,957	1,545	6,956	8,501	-6.7	10.4	6.8
Southern Plains	2,624	7,814	10,438	2,425	9,258	11,683	-7.6	18.5	11.9
Montana	199	1,740	1,939	166	2,275	2,441	-16.6	30.7	25.9
Idaho	355	584	939	438	890	1,328	23.4	52.4	41.4
Wyoming	84	927	1,011	76	996	1,072	-9.5	7.4	6.0
Colorado	294	1,506	1,800	284	1,770	2,054	-3.4	17.5	14.1
New Mexico	88	1,090	1,178	75	1,065	1,140	-14.8	-2.3	-3.2
Arizona	70	748	818	81	864	945	15.7	15.5	15.5
Utah	166	405	571	184	578	762	10.8	42.7	33.5
Nevada	35	485	520	36	589	625	2.9	21.4	20.2
Mountain	1,291	7,485	8,776	1,340	9,027	10,367	3.8	20.6	18.1
Washington	457	411	868	470	668	1,138	2.8	62.5	31.1
Oregon	360	747	1,107	391	1,067	1,458	8.6	42.8	31.7
California	1,296	1,440	2,736	1,489	2,094	3,583	14.9	45.4	31.0
Pacific	2,113	2,598	4,711	2,350	3,829	6,179	11.2	47.4	31.2
United States	35,270	41,560	76,830	37,020	58,413	95,433	5.0	40.6	24.2

1/ Preliminary.

Table 13.- Number of cows on farms 1949 and 1955, and percentage change, by States

State and region	Cows on farms January 1						Percentage change 1949-1955		
	1949			1955 1/					
	For milk	For beef	Total	For milk	For beef	Total	For milk	For beef	Total
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent	Percent	Percent
Maine	120	5	125	123	9	132	2.5	80.0	5.6
New Hampshire	69	1	70	71	2	73	1.4	100.0	4.3
Vermont	293	2	295	320	3	323	9.2	50.0	9.5
Massachusetts	126	2	128	127	2	129	.8	0	.8
Rhode Island	20	---	20	21	---	21	5.0	---	5.0
Connecticut	115	1	116	123	2	125	7.0	100.0	7.8
New York	1,411	14	1,425	1,527	31	1,558	8.2	121.4	9.3
New Jersey	153	1	154	158	3	161	3.3	200.0	4.5
Pennsylvania	970	28	998	1,039	77	1,116	7.1	175.0	11.8
North Atlantic	3,277	54	3,331	3,509	129	3,638	7.1	138.9	9.2
Michigan	945	42	987	963	78	1,041	1.9	85.7	5.5
Wisconsin	2,383	20	2,403	2,656	47	2,703	11.5	135.0	12.5
Minnesota	1,515	160	1,675	1,496	315	1,811	-1.3	96.9	8.1
Lake	4,843	222	5,065	5,115	440	5,555	5.6	98.2	9.7
Ohio	1,039	93	1,132	1,018	195	1,213	-2.0	109.7	7.2
Indiana	735	171	906	624	318	942	-15.1	86.0	4.0
Illinois	1,021	325	1,346	884	612	1,496	-13.4	88.3	11.1
Iowa	1,206	571	1,777	1,111	980	2,091	-7.9	71.6	17.7
Missouri	956	559	1,515	1,034	977	2,011	8.2	74.8	32.7
Central Corn Belt	4,957	1,719	6,676	4,671	3,082	7,753	-5.8	79.3	16.1
North Dakota	427	319	746	426	554	980	-.2	73.7	31.4
South Dakota	379	738	1,117	340	1,260	1,600	-10.3	70.7	43.2
Nebraska	506	1,023	1,529	442	1,558	2,000	-12.6	52.3	30.8
Kansas	623	866	1,489	545	1,392	1,937	-12.5	60.7	30.1
Northern Plains	1,935	2,946	4,881	1,753	4,764	6,517	-9.4	61.7	33.5
Delaware	37	2	39	42	6	48	13.5	200.0	23.1
Maryland	232	17	249	278	37	315	19.8	117.6	26.5
Virginia	465	144	609	474	329	803	1.9	128.5	31.9
West Virginia	229	76	305	229	131	360	0	72.4	18.0
North Carolina	361	45	406	391	159	550	8.3	253.3	35.5
Kentucky	648	167	815	687	350	1,037	6.0	109.6	27.2
Tennessee	635	162	797	714	319	1,033	12.4	96.9	29.6
Appalachian	2,607	613	3,220	2,815	1,331	4,146	8.0	117.1	28.8
South Carolina	165	41	206	178	103	281	7.9	151.2	36.4
Georgia	350	192	542	399	376	775	14.0	95.8	43.0
Florida	143	484	627	167	777	944	16.8	60.5	50.6
Alabama	387	263	650	452	585	1,037	16.8	122.4	59.5
Southeastern	1,045	980	2,025	1,196	1,841	3,037	14.4	87.9	50.0
Mississippi	538	322	860	643	614	1,257	19.5	90.7	46.2
Arkansas	427	183	610	456	394	850	6.8	115.3	39.3
Louisiana	299	446	745	377	727	1,104	26.1	63.0	48.2
Delta	1,264	951	2,215	1,476	1,735	3,211	16.8	82.4	45.0
Oklahoma	600	712	1,312	552	1,196	1,748	-8.0	68.0	33.2
Texas	1,121	3,257	4,378	1,031	3,784	4,815	-8.0	16.2	10.0
Southern Plains	1,721	3,969	5,690	1,583	4,980	6,563	-8.0	25.5	15.3
Montana	131	748	879	108	1,130	1,238	-17.6	51.1	40.8
Idaho	227	205	432	264	333	597	16.3	62.4	38.2
Wyoming	55	454	509	47	509	556	-14.5	12.1	9.2
Colorado	196	595	791	183	709	892	-6.6	19.1	12.8
New Mexico	60	599	659	52	631	683	-13.3	5.3	3.6
Arizona	46	378	424	53	406	459	15.2	7.4	8.3
Utah	108	174	282	113	272	385	4.6	56.3	36.5
Nevada	19	257	276	17	320	337	-10.5	24.5	22.1
Mountain	842	3,410	4,252	837	4,310	5,147	-.6	26.4	21.0
Washington	300	153	453	300	256	556	0	67.3	22.7
Oregon	231	322	553	244	476	720	5.6	47.8	30.2
California	840	580	1,420	909	822	1,731	8.2	41.7	21.9
Pacific	1,371	1,055	2,426	1,453	1,554	3,007	6.0	47.3	23.9
United States	23,862	15,919	39,781	24,408	24,166	48,574	2.3	51.8	22.1

1/ Preliminary.



Numbers of beef cattle have been expanded much more than those of cattle for milk. The 6 year increase in the former was 41 percent, for the latter 5 percent. ("Beef cattle" are beef cows, heifers and calves and all steers and bulls; "milk cattle" are cows, heifers and heifer calves kept for milk.) The number of beef cows advanced 52 percent over the 6 years, but milk cows only 2 percent.

Beef cattle numbers increased more rapidly in the East than the West. Beef cow numbers in North Carolina, which leads in rate of gain, are now $3\frac{1}{2}$ times those in 1949. Fifteen Eastern States have twice as many beef cows as 6 years ago. Central and Northern Plains States have 52 to 74 percent more beef cows now than then. Increases in the Mountain and Pacific West have averaged somewhat smaller. The Southwest, harassed by drought, has lagged in rate of increase. New Mexico has a 5 percent gain in beef cows, Arizona 7 percent, and Texas 16 percent.

Numbers of milk cows have generally increased in fluid milk areas of the East, and in the Southeast. They have decreased in the Central Corn Belt, much of which is a cream-producing region.

For all cows combined--which represent the total potential for beef and veal production--increases in the South are in the order of 30 to 50 percent. They are about as large in the Plains (except Texas) and in scattered States of the West. They are smaller elsewhere. (See chart, page 23.)

Despite the faster growth of cattle numbers in the Southeast than other regions, the distribution has not changed greatly by regions. First in number of cattle on farms January 1 is the Central Corn Belt, where many beef cattle are in feedlots by that date after moving off western range, and where milk cattle as well as beef breeding stock are numerous. The Northern Plains rank next in all cattle, followed by the Southern Plains and Mountain West.

In beef cattle alone the Northern Plains lead, with the Central Corn Belt, Southern Plains, and Mountain West following in order.

Regions from the Great Plains west contain (in 1955) 45 percent of all cattle and 58 percent of beef cattle. The three Southern regions have only 19 percent of all cattle and 17 percent of beef cattle. But these represent gains from the 17 percent of all cattle and 14 percent of beef cattle in those regions in 1949.

Selected price statistics for meat animals

Item	Unit	1954		1955		
		Mar.	Apr.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
Cattle and calves						
Beef steers, slaughter	Dollars per					
Chicago, Prime	100 pounds	28.01	27.96	32.25	31.27	28.45
Choice	do.	23.89	24.83	26.17	25.80	24.62
Good	do.	21.11	21.77	22.34	22.12	21.51
Commercial	do.	17.86	18.78	18.16	18.28	18.16
Utility	do.	15.24	15.88	15.07	15.40	15.71
All grades	do.	22.88	23.77	24.46	24.12	23.36
Omaha, all gradee	do.	21.53	22.23	22.71	22.74	21.98
Sioux City, all gradee	do.	21.47	22.47	22.56	22.41	22.01
Cows, Chicago						
Commercial	do.	14.03	14.81	13.50	13.96	14.70
Utility	do.	12.41	12.85	11.79	12.44	12.92
Canner and Cutter	do.	10.73	10.64	10.28	10.74	11.08
Vealers, Choice and Prime, Chicago	do.	26.65	24.80	28.60	25.66	25.52
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City 1/	do.	19.81	20.62	20.46	21.28	21.25
Price received by farmers						
Beef cattle	do.	16.40	16.90	16.50	16.70	17.00
Calves	do.	17.80	18.10	18.00	17.40	17.60
Hogs						
Barrows and gilts						
Chicago						
160-180 pounds	do.	25.43	26.46	16.26	15.84	16.57
180-200 pounds	do.	26.17	27.67	17.15	16.65	17.48
200-220 pounds	do.	26.36	27.84	17.06	16.65	17.49
220-240 pounds	do.	26.31	27.78	16.90	16.52	17.35
240-270 pounds	do.	26.06	27.47	16.12	16.13	16.90
270-300 pounds	do.	25.77	27.09	15.61	15.80	16.47
All weights	do.	25.92	27.30	16.10	16.11	16.90
8 markets 2/	do.	25.86	27.30	16.25	16.09	16.96
Sows, Chicago	do.	23.67	24.17	14.30	14.37	14.51
Price received by farmers	do.	25.00	26.40	16.40	15.40	16.60
Hog-corn price ratio 3/						
Chicago, barrows and gilts	do.	16.7	17.5	10.8	11.0	11.6
Price received by farmers, all hogs	do.	17.4	18.2	11.7	11.3	12.2
Sheep and lambs						
Sheep						
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	9.38	8.12	7.89	8.23	7.51
Price received by farmers	do.	7.62	7.49	6.67	6.91	6.68
Lambs						
Slaughter, Choice and Prime, Chicago	do.	24.99	25.42	22.06	23.24	22.12
Feeding, Good and Choice, Omaha	do.	21.44	22.31	20.75	20.97	19.83
Price received by farmers	do.	21.00	21.90	19.30	19.80	19.60
All meat animals						
Index number price received by farmers						
(1910-14=100)		316	333	264	260	269
Meat						
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per					
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds	100 pounds	37.92	39.45	41.75	40.23	39.32
Lamb carcass, Choice, 40-50 pounds	do.	46.22	48.75	41.85	42.58	42.65
Composite hog products:						
Including lard						
72.84 pounds fresh	Dollars	27.36	28.56	18.44	17.91	18.78
Average per 100 pounds	do.	37.56	39.21	25.32	24.59	25.78
71.19 pounds fresh and cured	do.	31.06	31.93	23.20	21.73	22.84
Average per 100 pounds	do.	43.63	44.85	32.59	30.52	32.08
Excluding lard						
56.19 pounds fresh and cured	do.	27.82	28.32	20.84	19.45	20.44
Average per 100 pounds	do.	49.51	50.40	37.09	34.61	36.38
Retail, United States average	Cents					
Beef, Choice grade	per pound	67.3	67.3	69.8	69.0	
Pork, excluding lard	do.	57.8	58.3	47.1	46.0	
Index number meat prices (BLS)						
Wholesale (1947-49=100)		92.0	93.9	85.5	80.5	
Retail (1947-49=100) 4/		111.8	112.6	102.6	100.9	

1/ Average all weights and gradee.
2/ Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis.
3/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.
4/ Includes beef and veal, pork, leg of lamb and other meats. Excludes poultry and fish.

Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meats 1/

Item	Unit	1954 Mar.	1954 Apr.	1955 Feb.	1955 Mar.	1955 Apr.
Meat animal marketings						
Index number (1935-39=100)		163	146	148	166	
Stocker and feeder shipments to						
9 Corn Belt States	1,000					
Cattle and calves	head	220	217	171	212	
Sheep and lambs	do.	188	202	135	120	
Slaughter under Federal inspection						
Number slaughtered						
Cattle	do.	1,511	1,417	1,313	1,524	
Steers	do.	825	806	618	773	
Heifers	do.	212	173	221	261	
Cows	do.	440	402	450	463	
Calves	do.	660	598	517	660	
Sheep and lambs	do.	1,149	1,096	1,080	1,244	
Hogs	do.	4,554	3,853	4,638	5,491	
Percentage sows	Percent	4.2	8.2	4.1	5.3	
Average live weight per head						
Cattle	Pounds	976	970	982	977	
Calves	do.	193	196	201	186	
Sheep and lambs	do.	102	99	103	103	
Hogs	do.	238	246	239	239	
Average production						
Beef, per head	do.	542	541	538	542	
Veal, per head	do.	108	110	111	104	
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	49	48	49	50	
Pork, per head 1/	do.	138	142	136	137	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight 1/	do.	58	58	57	57	
Lard, per head	do.	32	34	35	35	
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	14	14	15	14	
Total production	Million					
Beef	pounds	815	763	703	823	
Veal	do.	71	66	57	68	
Lamb and mutton	do.	56	52	53	61	
Pork 1/	do.	628	548	628	750	
Lard	do.	147	131	164	190	
Total commercial slaughter 2/						
Number slaughtered	1,000					
Cattle	head	2,064	1,919	1,803	2,097	
Calves	do.	1,119	992	898	1,122	
Sheep and lambs	do.	1,274	1,235	1,207	1,390	
Hogs	do.	5,648	4,724	5,825	6,778	
Total production	Million					
Beef	pounds	1,069	990	925	1,085	
Veal	do.	121	111	100	119	
Lamb and mutton	do.	61	58	59	68	
Pork 1/	do.	770	661	779	913	
Lard	do.	174	153	193	221	
Cold storage stocks first of month						
Beef	do.	205	173	175	152	142
Veal	do.	14	14	19	14	12
Lamb and mutton	do.	11	9	9	9	9
Pork	do.	414	418	505	531	540
Total meat and meat products 3/	do.	755	730	844	837	831

1/ Excludes lard.
2/ Federally inspected, and other wholesale and retail.
3/ Includes stocks of sausage and sausage room products, canned meats and canned meat products, and edible offals, in addition to the four meats listed.

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